

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 (ISO) W

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P 260425Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4060

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 0386

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, OGEN, NP

SUBJ: PERMIT TO CLIMB MT. EVEREST - REVEREND FORD

REF: STATE 017405

1. YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF SITUATION OF FORD PERMIT (PARA. 3 REFTEL) IS ESSENTIALLY CORRECT, ALTHOUGH ISSUANCE OF PERMIT TO TRIMBLE PARTY IS NOT ALL THAT CERTAIN SHOULD FORD NOT MEET STIPULATIONS OF HMG BY END OF JANUARY. FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS LEVIED REQUIREMENT THAT FORD CLIMB WITH A PARTY OF AT LEAST 4 OR 5 QUALIFIED MOUNTAINEERS. ALTHOUGH FORD IS PROBABLY UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT HE HAS MET THIS REQUIREMENT IN HIS LATEST TELEGRAM TO MFA, MFA HAS DECIDED IN ESSENCE TO IGNORE THAT CABLE BECAUSE OF WHAT THEY CONSIDER OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE. THEY HAVE INFORMED FORD'S LOCAL ATTORNEY THAT HE MUST SUBMIT BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY IF PERMISSION TO TO BE GRANTED, BUT HAS NOT CABLED HIM DIRECTLY SINCE ORIGINAL PERMISSION WAS GRANTED JAN. 5.

2. WE ASSUME THAT LOCAL ATTORNEY HAS TOLD FORD OF THIS REQUIREMENT BUT WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S CONTINUED EFFORTS TO REACH FORD BY TELEPHONE, SINCE HE MAY WELL ASSUME THAT HIS AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE IS ALL THAT IS REQUIRED FOR PERMIT.

3. AS FOR TRIMBLE APPLICATION, MFA OFFICER IN CHARGE OF MOUNTAINEERING HAS EXPRESSED SOME PRIVATE CONCERN THAT TRIMBLE DOES NOT EXPECT TO SPEND MUCH MONEY IN NEPAL IMPLICATION OF WHICH IS THAT THEY WOULD
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PREFER LARGER GROUP. NONETHELESS, WE UNDERSTAND THAT

HMG HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO GIVE EVEREST TO AMERICAN
PARTY IN BICENTENNIAL YEAR. WE ARE AWARE OF NO OTHER
APPLICATIONS FROM U.S. CARGO

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NNN

Message Attributes

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